

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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FOR SCIATT

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: TSPA

SUBJ: PROPOSED NASA AEROBEE SOUNDING ROCKET
CAMPAIGN AT WOOMERA

1. NASA HAS BEEN EXPLORING WITH AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT
OF SUPPLY (DOS) POSSIBILITY OF CONDUCTING A SOUNDING
ROCKET CAMPAIGN FROM WOOMERA THIS FALL SIMILAR TO THAT
CONDUCTED IN JUNE 1970. CAMPAIGN WOULD INVOLVE UP TO
EIGHT U. S. AEROBEE 170 SOUNDING ROCKETS, SEVEN OF WHICH WOULD
BE INSTRUMENTED WITH NASA OR NASA CONTRACTOR-
SUPPLIED PAYLOADS AND 8 TH ROCKET WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR
AUSTRALIAN SCIENTIFIC PAYLOADS.

2. A NASA TEAM VISITED AUSTRILIA IN FEBRUARY TO DIS-
CUSS THE CAMPAIGN NAD OUTLINE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS
AND COSTS BASED ON THESE DISCUSSIONS AND CONTINUING
TECHNICAL DIALOGUE, NASA HAS CONFIRMED ITS INTEREST IN
MOVING AHEAD AND HAS FORWARDED DRAFT AGENCY- LEVEL
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ARRANGEMENTS TO DOS FOR CONSIDERATION. THESE WERE
CLEARED IN ADVANCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT.

3. AS WAS THE CASE WITH THE 1970 CAMPAIGN, THE
AUSTRALIANS HAVE REQUESTED A COVERING EXCHANGE OF
DIPLOMATIC NOTES. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO PASS FOLLOWING
DRAFT TEXT TO AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS FOR CONSIDERATION:

QUOTE

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES PRESENTS ITS
COMPLIMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND
HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE AGREEMENT CONCLUDED
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA ON MARCH 25, 1970
CONCERNING A CONTINUED PROGRAM OF COOPERATION TO
FACILITATE SPACE FLIGHT OPERATIONS CONTRIBUTING TO
THE ADVANCEMENT OF MUTUAL SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE OF MAN'S
SPATIAL ENVIRONMENT AND ITS EFFECTS. IN ACCORDANCE
WITH THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATING INHERENT IN THAT AGREEMENT
AND WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO ARTICLE 2 (3),
FURTHER DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD BETWEEN REPRESENTA-
TIVES OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES LOOKING TOWARD USE OF THE
AUSTRALIAN WOOMERA RANGE FOR LAUNCHING OF SOUNDING
ROCKETS FOR SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THOSE DISCUSSIONS, IF IT PROPOSED
THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS COOPERATE IN A PROGRAM INVOLVING
THE LAUNCHING FROM WOOMERA DURING 1973 OF UP TO 8 AEROBEE
ROCKETS FOR SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATIONS, AND SUCH ADDITIONAL
LAUNCHINGS IN THE FUTURE AS MAY BE MUTUALLY AGREED. THE
1973 PROGRAM WILL BE SIMILAR TO THE PROGRAM CONDUCTED IN
1970 UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE SAME AGREEMENT.

IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE SPECIFIC NUMBER, CHARACTER
AND SCHEDULE OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTS TO BE PERFORMED
AS PART OF THE PROGRAM, THE ALLOCATION OF TECHNICAL
AND OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY WITH RESPECT TO THE
LAUNCHINGS, THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FINANCING THE PROGRAM,
AND THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR ROCKET
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LAUNCHING, TRACKING AND TELEMETERING OF INFORMATION FROM THE
ROCKET, BE AGREED UPON BY THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE
ADMINISTRATION, THE COOPERATING AGENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY, THE
COOPERATING AGENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF COMMONWEALTH AUSTRALIA.
IT
IS FURTHER PROPOSED THAT THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLES 3 THROUGH

12 OF THE AGREEMENT OF MARCH 25, 1970 BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS
SHALL APPLY MUTATIS MUTANDIS WITH RESPECT TO THIS JOINT PROGRAM.

THE EMBASSY PROPOSES THAT IF THE FOREGOING PROPOSALS
ARE ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
AUSTRALIA, THIS NOTE AND THE REPLY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TO THAT EFFECT SHALL TOGETHER CONSTITUTE
AND EVIDENCE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS
WHICH SHALL ENTER INTO FORCE ON THE DATE OF THE DEPART-
MENT'S REPLY, AND SHALL REMAIN IN FORCE FOR THREE YEARS.

THE EMBASSY AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO
RENEW TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS THE ASSURANCES
OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

END QUOTE.

4. ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND BACKGROUND OF PROPOSED
CAMPAIGN MAY BE OBTAINED FROM NASA REPRESENTATIVE
WILLSON HUNTER.

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